

## **HEALTH CARE ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Summary July 14, 2003**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Marlene Blum, Chairman  
Rose Chu, Vice Chairman  
Bill Finerfrock, Vice Chairman  
John Clark  
J. Martin Lebowitz  
Susan Randall  
Rosanne Rodilosso  
Timothy Yarboro

#### **GUESTS**

Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Health Department  
JoAnne Jorgenson, Health Department  
Randy Hart, Inova Health System  
Jim Scott, Inova Health System  
John Steele, Inova Health System  
Jerome Carter, Inova Health System

#### **STAFF**

John Ruthinoski

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

#### **Agenda Change**

Marlene Blum announced that the meeting with the Southeast Health Planning Task Force would not take place this evening, as Warren Cikins had a family emergency and Ann Andrews also would be unable to attend. She reported that Jim Scott made sure that all the members of the Task Force were contacted. She added that she considered canceling the meeting, but decided not to do so after discussing the idea with Jim Scott.

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the May 12, 2003 HCAB meeting were accepted with the following amendment:

- The third sentence of the first paragraph on the fourth page should begin, "Marlene Blum asked the HCAB if any members..."

#### **Inova Capital Projects**

Randy Hart reported that Fairfax Hospital is adding an MRI on the ground floor adjacent to the Emergency Department in a space which currently houses a CT scanner. The document in the meeting package states that the CT scanner would be moved to a new location, however since the material was distributed, Inova decided to purchase a new

CT scanner. He reported that a CON for the new MRI has already been approved and that the new CT scanner does not require a CON, as it is a replacement for existing equipment. Construction will proceed in two phases, the first being a renovation of the radiology suite for the new CT scanner and the second being a reconfiguration of the old CT space for the new MRI. He added that the order has already been put in for the new equipment. Construction should start in October and the project should be completed by the end of the year. With the addition of the new CT scanner, the cost of the project is now \$4.9M.

Dr. Lebowitz asked what would be done with the old CT scanner. John Steele responded that it is 9 years old and therefore 3 generations behind current equipment. He added that it will be sent back to the manufacturer who may break it up and use it for parts, or perhaps it could be used for a veterinarian's office. Most importantly, the manufacturer will assume the responsibility for removing it from the hospital. Dr. Lebowitz asked if purchasing an open MRI was considered. John Steele reported that there is one at Fair Oaks Hospital which is available to Inova. He added that open MRIs use a lower strength magnet, and are not sufficient for a level one trauma center. They are primarily designed for use by children and claustrophobics. Dr. Yarboro asked if the new unit would have the same body weight limit. John Steele reported that the limit of the new unit would be 350 pounds compared to 300 for the current unit. However, the gantry (which is the entry hole) is the same size as the previous unit.

Bill Finerfrock asked if Inova considered purchasing a Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS). John Steele responded that such a system is too expensive for Inova to purchase at the present time, but that there currently are high level meetings being held to explore the feasibility of purchasing a PACS system. A consultant was brought in and concluded that the system would cost \$17M to purchase PACS for all four Inova Hospitals. Bill Finerfrock responded that this cost was much higher than he has been seeing for PACS. Responding to a question from Marlene Blum, Bill Finerfrock explained that PACS allows the movement of diagnostic images electronically. The system is useful in rural settings as it facilitates the use of telemedicine. John Steele added that PACS is a "filmless" system where radiologists read results off a screen. These images can then be accessed from anywhere by doctors with a web license. He added that at the highest levels, it would allow doctors to access an image, the interpretation of an image, as well as the previous two images and their interpretations. He added that another advantage would be a reduction in the need of storage space. Currently, records are required to be stored for five years. Marlene Blum noted that the advent of this technology might lead to a change in the regulations. Dr. Lebowitz added that the technology is also being used for pathology.

Marlene Blum noted that the HCAB usually sends a memo to the Board of Supervisors stating that the HCAB has reviewed the proposed project. The HCAB will also note that a CON has been approved for the project.

## **Construction Inflation Factor**

Randy Hart began by explaining that the new construction inflation factor was based on a composite of three sources: the Bureau of Reclamation, the Handy Whitman Building Index and the Engineering News Record's Construction Index. These three indexes are averaged to calculate the new factor. Bill Finerfrock asked how the factor is currently calculated. Randy Hart explained that previously the construction inflation factor was calculated using the only the Engineering News Record's Construction Index for the Baltimore region. Bill Finerfrock noted that in their proposal, Inova goes back to 1990 and calculates the factor every year as if they had been using the composite factor since that time. This raises the figure from where it would be if they just started using the factor this year (which would make the figure \$1.2M) to a higher amount (\$1.37M). He added that he felt it is a dangerous precedent to allow Inova the benefit of years of inflation that had not previously been allowed.

Timothy Yarboro asked if any of the three indexes were health care specific. Randy Hart responded that they have looked for health care construction indexes, but have been unable to locate any. The three indexes are for commercial construction, which includes health care construction. Bill Finerfrock asked what happened in 1996, when all the indexes were valued at 100%. Randy Hart noted that the industry chose to re-base in 1996. Marlene Blum noted that the HCAB will include information on the new index in its memo to the Board.

## **Other Business**

Marlene Blum noted that the HCAB's executive Committee usually meets with Inova in the summer to discuss the development of Inova's budget; however this meeting had not been scheduled yet. John Ruthinoski reported that Richard Magenheimer's secretary contacted him with the information that Richard, Elita Christiansen and Jim Scott would not all be available at the same time until September. After some discussion, it was decided that Jim Scott would work with Richard's office to find a date between August 11 and September 5th. JoAnne Jorgenson asked Jim Scott to find out whether any of the reported cuts made recently by Inova affected OB services or the Pediatric Center.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.